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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/779,711 | 02/18/2004 | Ali R. Dergham | 117430 | 1111 |
| 27074 | 7590 | 01/10/2005 | | |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC. P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320 | | | EXAMINER GHATT, DAVE A | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2854 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,711

Applicant(s)

DERGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Dave A Ghatt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/18/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ayash et al. (US 6,621,554). Insofar as apparatus and method steps are recited, Ayash et al. teaches the claimed invention. With respect to claims 1 and 7, Ayash et al. teaches a method and apparatus for achieving balanced air flows in a dual airflow environmental module for a marking machine. Figure 2 of Ayash et al. shows the step of providing a plenum (generally shown at 1) having a main airflow chamber that receives air from inlet 4. Figure 3 shows the step of providing a primary airflow chamber (the right-hand column) fluidly connected to the main air flow chamber. (See column 4 lines 3-21) Figure 3 also shows the step of providing a secondary airflow chamber (left-hand column) fluidly connected to the main airflow chamber. (See column 4 lines 3-21). In Figure 3, Ayash et al. also teaches a wall (not numbered) dividing the primary airflow chamber from the secondary airflow chamber. As outlined in column 6 lines 63 to column 7 line 6, Ayash et al. teaches an air conditioning mechanism that adjust the thermodynamic characteristic of the air flowing in the plenum. Figure 3 of Ayash et al. teaches a primary air blower 15 that moves air through the main and primary airflow plenum chambers.

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Figure 3 also shows a secondary airflow blower 17 that blows air thorough the main and secondary airflow plenum chambers. Column 6 line 63 to column 7 line 19 teach a controller that operates the primary and secondary air flow blowers to provide balanced primary and secondary air flows in the marking engine. The applicant should note that this claim requirement does not require the controller to change the rate of the blowers.

With respect to claims 2, 5, and 6, insofar as structure is broadly recited, column 6 line 63 to column 7 line 19 also teach the controller controlling the entire system, i.e., operating the air conditioning, the moisture source, and the heater mechanism, to thermodynamically adjust the primary and secondary air flows.

With respect to claim 3, Ayash et al. teaches the use of a moisture source 14. See column 4 line 19.

With respect to claim 4, Ayash et al. teaches a heater 11, shown in Figure 3.

With respect to claim 7 and the requirement for locating the primary and secondary air flow chambers above the main air flow chamber, as shown in Figure 3, the primary chamber receives air through inlet 19, which is below the primary chamber. The secondary chamber, which is adjacent the primary chamber and also located in the plenum (shown generally at 1), must therefore also be located above the main airflow chamber.

With respect to claim 8, column 6 line 63 to column 7 line 19 teaches the step of thermodynamically adjusting airflows.

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Common Assignee

3. The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave A Ghatt whose telephone number is (571) 272-2165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DAG


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